

# **State Interagency Team for Children, Youth and Families Work Group to Eliminate Disparities 2008 Planning Report**

**January 2008**

**Goal: Decrease racial disproportionality and disparities in outcomes across systems and make progress toward fairness, equity, and quality of services for California's diverse racial, ethnic and cultural children, youth and families**

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Participants: ADP, CDSS, CDE, CDPW, Corrections, EDD, Judicial Council, Annie E. Casey Foundation

The SIT Work Group to Eliminate Disparities (Work Group) is focusing on two primary strategies for achieving this Goal:

## **Participation in the California Disproportionality Project:**

The California Disproportionality Project (Project), co sponsored by CDSS and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, focuses on addressing racial disproportionality and disparities in the child welfare system. The Project is in its developmental stage and is projected to launch in early 2008.

The Work Group represents SIT as the state team for the Project and will develop recommendations to the SIT, which may include policy, practice, and regulatory changes to achieve the Goal.

SIT and Work Group Deliverables include Participation and support for the Project through:

- Input into the planning and development of the Project Framework;
- Explicit commitment to support the Project's work, within SIT member organizations and across the state;
- Support developing a statewide internal and external communication strategy about this work; and,
- Agreement to address and respond to issues and barriers that arise in a timely way.

Challenges: Delay in Project implementation related to complications in the contracting process and need to confirm and clarify the SIT and Work Group role in the Project.

Accomplishments to date:

- Provided input into the development of the Project framework and the criteria for the selection of the 14 counties that will participate in the Project.
- Participated in the "experts" meeting to finalize the Project framework

## **Strengthening Collaboration Across State Agencies:**

To identify ways to improve collaboration, learn from, support and leverage state agency efforts to decrease disparities and disproportionality the Work Group members are sharing their

agency's aggregate data on service population, outcomes, policy goals, strategies, projects and initiatives. This process was completed in December 2007.

Work Group Deliverables include:

Recommendations to the SIT for strengthening collaboration across state agencies to achieve shared goals for decreasing disparity and disproportionality in services and outcomes.

Accomplishments to date:

- The Work Group developed and adopted common definitions for disparity and disproportionality and a planning framework to guide their work.
- All Work Group Members presented their agency's policies, programs, infrastructure and efforts to address disparity and disproportionality in services and outcomes.
- Work Group members completed a Member Survey describing key aspects of their agency's issues and efforts to address disparity and disproportionality in their systems and are analyzing the data to identify common themes and recommendations to the SIT.
- Work Group members have shared a variety of tools and resources used by their agencies.

Challenges: Membership turnover; and concern by some agencies regarding sharing data on disparities and disproportionality through the Member Survey.

**Recommendation:**

Retain on the 2008 Work Plan to meet SIT commitment to participate as the state level team on the California Disproportionality Project and to support the Work Group in: developing recommendations to the SIT for ways to leverage and support member agencies efforts to address racial disproportionality and disparities in services and outcomes; and following up to ensure that the recommendations are implemented.